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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/578,612	05/25/2000	Georgia Hilton	WWA-102	7248
41245	7590	10/06/2008	EXAMINER	
Mark Levy HINMAN, HOWARD & KATTELL, LLP 80 Exchange Street P.O. Box 5250 BINGHAMTON, NY 13901			MEI, XU	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/578,612	Applicant(s) HILTON, GEORGIA	
	Examiner Xu Mei	Art Unit 2615	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 May 2008.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 27,31-33 and 35-38 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 27,31-33 and 35-38 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. This communication is responsive to the applicant's amendment dated 05/27/2008.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 27, 31-33 and 35-38 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Matsushige (US-5,487,067).

Regarding claim 27, 31, 33 and 36, Matsushige (Figs. 13-17, col. 23, line 21-col. 25, line 25) discloses a plurality of typical audio/video studio (example of Fig. 17 shows having 4 studios) that including different rooms (i.e., audio spaces such as sound room shows in Fig. 13). A plurality of audio spaces of the plurality of studio for at least listening to a reproduced sound, each of said plurality of audio spaces being adapted to accommodate a listener and comprising means for selectively electrically connecting (links) one of said plurality of audio spaces to at least one other thereof, said acoustical enclosures each comprising respectively, substantially identical means for reproducing sound (each of the studio is having substantially identical components as shown in Fig. 16 for processing and producing sound by speakers 49) comprising an

audio mixing console (mixer 5) to a corresponding audio mixing console in each other for reproducing sound in each of said other enclosures in respective ones of said connected audio spaces, whereby a listener accommodated in any of said plurality of enclosures so connected receives a listening experience to that of a listener accommodated in any other one of said connected enclosures when a substantially identical audio signal transmitted across said means for selectively electrically connecting said audio spaces is substantially simultaneously applied to each of said means for reproducing sound. What's not specifically mentioned by Matsushige is that the audio spaces or studios are substantially acoustically identical enclosures having the exact standards and specifications-physically, acoustically, and technologically therein necessary to produce said substantially acoustically identicalness and comprise identical, physical devices and materials.

It is merely an engineering design choice to one of ordinary skill in the art to design audio spaces or studios are substantially acoustically identical enclosures having the exact standards and specifications-physically, acoustically, and technologically therein necessary to produce said substantially acoustically identicalness and comprise identical, physical devices and materials. The design and construction of large-scale studios paper of Mann et al disclosed and shown in Figs. 0 and 1 with identical studios 1 and 2 having the exact standards and specifications-physically, acoustically, and technologically and identical fader stereo on-air consoles (page 6, section 7 of console design) is a prime example of designing such identical audio spaces or studios utilize

identical, physical devices and materials, and installing desired identical audio mixing consoles.

Since Matsushige discloses the typical audio/video studio that is having substantially identical means at each studio for processing and producing audio output, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to recognize that it is merely an engineering design choice to design and provide audio spaces or studios that are substantially acoustically identical enclosures with the exact standards and specifications-physically, acoustically, and technologically therein necessary to produce said substantially acoustically identicalness and comprise identical, physical devices and materials, as shown in the example of Mann et al, in order to generate substantially identical or uniform audio output to each of the different studios or audio spaces or enclosures to enable user(s) at each of the studios to enjoy substantially identical high fidelity audio output with substantial identical audio mixing process by the plurality of studios.

For what's called for in claim 35, see col. 25, lines 19-45.

Regarding claim 32, Matsushige discloses everything claimed as applied above (see claim 31), and also shows the electrical link as a ring network, which constitute as a wide area matrix network, and Matsushige also discloses the data transfer via the Ethernet.

Regarding claims 37-38, Matsushige discloses in Figs. 9-11 that including synchronizing the events in one audio space with another. Furthermore, synchronizing audio events with other events, such as video was well known in the art. Thus, it would

have been obvious to one of the ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the invention of Matsushige by implementing synchronization the audio events with other events such as video for the purpose of enabling synchronized real-time editing and control of both the audio and video effects at each of the substantially identical audio or video production studios.

Conclusion

4. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Xu Mei whose telephone number is 571-272-7523. The examiner can normally be reached on maxi flex.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Vivian Chin can be reached on 571-272-7848. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Xu Mei/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2615
09/23/2008